



# Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery

## Hatchery Background:

Since the 1990s, the Yakama Nation has been researching how to culture white sturgeon by rearing small numbers in Tribal hatchery facilities.

Our production efforts expanded in 2009, with the development of the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery.

## Production Steps:

**1) Collect wild adults:** To maintain diversity, every year about 8 female and 8-12 male sturgeon are captured from Bonneville, John Day,\* and Wanapum\* reservoirs as broodstock.

\*PUD efforts



**2) Spawn the wild stock:** Broodstock are spawned at the hatchery, and then returned to their area of capture.

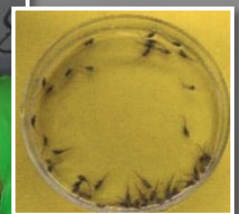


**4) Juveniles released spring:**

From 2010-2018, about 83,000 tagged yearling sturgeon have been produced for release in mid-Columbia reservoirs.

The future production goal is 20,000 fish, annually.

**3) Fertilize, hatch and rear:** In isolated family groups, eggs are fertilized and hatched, and juveniles are reared for about a year.



*Note: Sturgeon production/reintroduction projects receive funding from various sources (e.g. NOAA's PCSRF program, U.S. BOR, and Grant, Chelan and Douglas County PUDs). Future expansion is funded by the Bonneville Power Administration. Background photo: Juvenile sturgeon rearing at Marion Drain (photos YN)*





# White Sturgeon Management Project

## Existing Challenge

Since the 1980s, it has been known that there is a problem with low juvenile white sturgeon recruitment in the mid- to upper- Columbia River. While numerous factors may be involved, impacts to spawning and rearing habitat, migration, and changes in flows due to the hydrosystem may be contributing.



## Our Project Goals

- To supplement wild production by releasing hatchery reared juveniles until healthy self-sustaining harvestable populations can be achieved.
- Enhanced natural spawning and fisheries throughout the mid-Columbia and Lower Snake rivers.



## Future Plans

- We are working on plans to expand juvenile releases in Zone 6 of the Columbia River and into the Lower Snake River.



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Source: US National Park Service